

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /045 W
-----105644 161413Z /53

R 160830Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 468
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5048

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BG, US
SUBJECT: THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MUJIB'S DEATH OBSERVED PEACEFULLY

REF: 77 DACCA 4521

1. THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S ASSASSINATION PASSED WITH PEACEFUL OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCASION, BUT WITHOUT DISTURBANCES. BOTH WINGS OF THE RECENTLY SPLIT AWAMI LEAGUE HELD MEETINGS TO EULOGIZE THE SHEIKH AND VISITED THE DACCA GRAVES OF MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY SLAIN WITH HIM THE MORNING OF AUGUST 15, 1975. THE GOVERNMENT STATIONED EXTRA POLICE AND ANSARS AT MUJIB'S FORMER RESIDENCE AND BLOCKED OFF THE ROAD IN FRONT OF IT (AS IT DOES ON MOST DAYS WITH NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE). DURING THE MORNING A GROUP OF AWAMI LEAGUERS GATHERED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ROAD BUT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER.

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2. MUJIB'S MEMORY WAS GIVEN SLIGHTLY MORE PLAY THIS YEAR, PARTLY BECAUSE THERE ARE NOW TWO AWAMI LEAGUE GROUPS TO REMEMBER HIM, AND PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MORE RELAXED RESPONSE TO THE ANNIVERSARY. A YEAR AGO, PRESIDENT ZIA TOOK THE OCCOSION TO INVEIGH AGAINST "ELEMENTS CARRYING OUT ANTI-NATIONAL AND ANTI-PEOPLE ACTIVITIES" (A PHRASE OFTEN DIRECTED AGAINST

BAKSALITES AND THE AWAMI LEAGUE) AND THE DACCA PRESS CARRIED STATEMENTS FROM A VARIETY OF POLITICAL FIGURES CALLING FOR PUNISHMENT OF BAKSALITES FOR THEIR PLUNDERING OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE AUGUST 1975. THIS YEAR, DURING AN AUGUST 14 SPEECH WHILE ON TOUR IN THE NORTHWEST PART OF THE COUNTRY, ZIA CALLED ON THE PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE FOR THOSE WHO HAD IN THE PAST "PLUNDERED NATIONAL WEALTH", BUT THE GENERAL TONE OF HIS SPEECH WAS LESS STRIDENT THAN A YEAR AGO. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ANNIVERSARY INCLUDED BRIEF SUMMARIES OF AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS' SPEECHES BUT NO DENUNCIATIONS, DIRECT OR OTHERWISE, OF BAKSAL. RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO PROHIBIT OR OVERSHADOW ANY PUBLIC REMEMBRANCE OF MUJIB, THE GOVERNMENT WAS SUFFICIENTLY RELAXED TO ALLOW A MODEST EULOGY BY HIS FOLLOWERS.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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